

New Iberia, La. Jan 1st 1864

My Dear Mother,

As it is "New Years day" I thought I would write you a short letter and wish you all a "happy New Year," I suppose you have had a fine time to day, you probably did if Harrison got home time enough to enjoy it with you, but I hardly think he did.

How I should enjoy a good old fashioned New Years ~~shuch~~ such as we used to have before the family was broken up.

I hope before another year rolls around that we may all be permitted to meet again at the old homestead with the family circle unbroken, but we cannot tell what changes the year will bring about. I received your letter of Dec the 6th with one from Ellen to Harrison.

I suppose Ellen will look for an answer from me as I took the liberty of receiving it. And since then I have received one from her to me and a line from you for Harrison in it.

You want to know if Uncle Sam lent me five dollars? I borrowed it of him when I went to New Orleans from New Iberia with wounded. I saw him there and went with him to the pay masters to get his pay and took seventy five dollars of it and expressed it for him, he wanted to send eighty and I told if he would let me have 5 dollars that I would have you pay Aunt Frank. I was out of money at the time.

You want to know if it was wearing cotton shirts that caused me to have the ague, that might of helped it along but a man I notice is just as apt to have it whether he has woolen shirts or cotton ones on.

I have not worn those checked shirts since you sent me these *flannell* ones when these ones are gone I want another pair just like these and just the same size.

I have the ague now once in a while but not so bad as before but I have got used to ~~to~~ it so I don't mind it much now.

It is an awful cold night, last night was the coldest night that we have had since we have been in this state, we feel the cold a great deal more than we ever did before at home it seems, but it don't trouble Jimmy and myself much for we have a good tent to sleep in and a good fire place in it do that we can sleep as *cozey* as you please.

But I *pitty* the boys that are on picket for they are not allowed to have any fire. I know how to pity them for I have been them.

There is one regiment of our Brigade, the 12th Cours(?) agoing to start for home tomorrow, they have been in the service two years and have re-enlisted for three years, they get a bounty of \$500.00 and a furlough for 30 days after they get into their own state.

I am under another Dr. now. Dr. Wilson has been relieved and Dr. Benedict takes his place, a much better man than Wilson. Jimmy is clerk for the Adjutant General now, the Dr. office is in the same tent.

There is no news of importance here to write, the boys of Leonardsville are all well. Give my love to all and write often.

From Your Affect. Son,

Francis F. Brand